

West Rutland Select Board Minutes
February 8, 2016

Present: Chet Brown, John Harvey, Mitch Frankenberg, Sean Barrows, Mary Ann Goulette, Joe Skaza, Mike Mosier, REDC, Jayne Pratt, Nick Bastille, Ed Tuliper and Peter Kulig.

Call to order: Sean Barrows called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. with pledge of allegiance.

Agenda: A motion was made by John to accept agenda and it was seconded by Mitch. Motion passed unanimously. Liquor Licenses for Rite Aid and the Legion were added to the agenda. The executive session was also moved to the end.

Minutes: Chet made motion to accept minutes John seconded. Passed unanimously.

Public Concerns: Drug activity is continuing to get worse on Harrison Avenue. There is still constant traffic all night long, and is very noisy. The Sheriff does have a presence on the street but doesn't seem to be effective. It is very loud with horns etc. Sheriff is looking into to foreclosure options on the houses and changing the patrol activity. Sheriff presence there does not stop the activity. Summer is only going to get worse. Mary Ann will follow up with State Police and the Sheriff for an update. Nick suggested maybe getting a Constable vs. a Sheriff. If the Sheriff can't do any better then the Town has to move on to something/someone else.

Discussion Items:

Chamber of Commerce and REDC were present to discuss how they are help the community and build business. West Rutland has a lot of developing in the upcoming year with the water project and the bike/pedestrian grant and they want to help.

REDC Update- REDC realizes our region needs some help and they plan on going to legislature to help the community. West Rutland is ahead of the game with all the planning Mary Ann and the Planning Commission has done for the upcoming projects this year. They want the community to know REDC is alive and that the recent personnel change was strategic as they knew they needed to do things differently. Dave Wolk of Castleton State University wanted to work with REDC and they found it was a great opportunity to work with the college.

Some highlights that REDC think are important to help develop/improve communities is:

- The need for permitting procedures that are predictable, timely and the cost is known.
- The 3.65% unemployment rate. REDC realizes the need to keep students/young people here in VT but we need the business to keep them here. Castleton is working with alumni, other colleges and current students in job referrals with local businesses. REDC with CSU have an office downtown for accessibility to help facilitate this. REDC also believes affordable housing for professionals would help draw/retain young people in the

area. With the new Water/Sewer project being completed this year Mary Ann would like to work with REDC in finding grants to help people hook on. Mary Ann is also hoping to work with the legislature to find \$ to help repair the road entering the Industrial Park. The Industrial Park is very important to the region's economy especially Hirschmann's recent expansion. Westway mall has sold and Mary Ann would like the new owners to meet with REDC and the Chamber. The new owners want to work with the town and will need help with the act 250 process. They will be rehabbing and adding on to the existing building and they invite the community to be involved for ideas. Vermont is growing incrementally and REDC wants to help continue that. Only 3% of downtown Rutland is unoccupied which is a great improvement.

Marble Street Parking- Mary Ann had the preliminary design. One thought was to get rid of parallel parking around the parking lot. Because the lot is oddly shaped it was discussed to ask Gawet for some land donation to round out the lot. There are 24 central parking spaces. Mary Ann mentioned it would be nice to put benches on the back side by the channel as the bike path will locate back there.

Sheldon Ave Rehab- It was recommended to reclaim 12" in depth first and then compact everything there, adding stabilization fabric and 8" in crushed gravel and replace culverts. Chet worries about Pet Gear and water running to them. The town would need to divert the water from Pet Gear. We need an approximate cost by March 7th to present to the legislature. The Thrall intersection will be replaced as well.

Action items

Metering proposal: Net Group Metering. West Side Solar is asking if the town would like to purchase electricity from the project which would give the Town a 10 % savings. The DRB has also filed a letter with the PSB stating that it's not in our plan and we don't support the project. The point was made also that there is wildlife that lives in the area of where the solar project is going. The Town will not consider this proposal since the project itself is not compliant with our town plan.

GMP Pole ext.- Mary Ann questioned whether the Town would want a pole installed/extended over the sidewalk. GMP has the easements they need for the adjacent property owners. We are trying to improve the streetscape and add trees along the right of way. The line should be underground. The Town will not consider this proposal since we do not support the project itself as it is not compliant with our town plan.

Liquor License-John made a motion to accept the liquor license for the Tavern and it was second by Chet. Passed unanimously. John made a motion to accept the liquor license for Rite Aid #1174 and it was seconded by Mitch. Passed unanimously. John made a motion to accept the liquor license for AM Legion Post #87 and it was seconded by Chet. Passed unanimously.

Approve orders

Board Concerns - None

Joe Skaza said Baileys found them a truck with no commission charge. Baileys donated the commission and it was within the budget. Baileys will try to get rid of the van for them as well.

Executive Session: Motion made by John seconded by Mitch to enter executive session at 7:16 for personnel reasons. Motion made by Mitch seconded by Chet to exit executive session at 8:04. All approved.

No action taken.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 John made motion and Mitch seconded. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Christen Fitzgerald